

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Newly Presented Claim 15

Claim 15 have been added to cover different aspects of the present invention. This claim is supported by the Specification and does not add new matter.

Claim 15 recites, in part:

a firewall including an access control, the firewall being located between the file control unit and the plurality of hard disk drives on the first LAN, and between the file control unit and the management terminal on the second LAN, wherein the access control of the firewall manages communication between the plurality of clients, the file control unit, the plurality of hard disk drives, and the management terminal such that communication is allowed directly between the file control unit and the plurality of hard disk drives, but communication is not allowed directly between the plurality of clients and the plurality of hard disk drives or directly between the management terminal and the plurality of hard disk drives, wherein the access control of the firewall cannot be set by any of the plurality of clients or the management terminal. . .
(Applicant's claim 15, in part).

Applicant submits at least the above features are not disclosed or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner. For example, as best understood, the cited references do not teach anything about a firewall between a file control unit and a plurality of hard disk drives on a first LAN, and between a file control unit and a management terminal on a second LAN, "such that communication is allowed directly between the file control unit and the plurality of hard disk drives, but communication is not allowed directly between the plurality of clients and the plurality of hard disk drives or directly between the management terminal and the plurality of hard disk drives" as recited in claim 15.

Further, as best understood, the cited references do not teach anything about preventing the access control of the firewall from being set by any of a plurality of clients or the management terminal as recited in claim 15.

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PATENT

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that newly presented claim 15 is allowable over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

/Andrew J. Lee/

Andrew J. Lee
Reg. No. 60,371

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
AJL